

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 3, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, based on alleged failure to disclose how a port bitmask is determined to be "provisional" is respectfully traversed.

The adjective "provisional" is a commonly used and well understood word in the English language. Attached are definitions from Merriam-Webster OnLine and from Dictionary.com explaining the common meaning of such an adjective as "serving for the time being, temporary" or "provided for a temporary need: suitable for acceptance in the existing situation but subject to change or nullification", etc.

While the word "provisional" was not used in the originally filed specification, description of the "initial" port bitmask and the fact that it is subject to being changed subsequently, etc. clearly is present (e.g., see page 18, line 6 of the specification).

Accordingly, in an attempt to simply obviate this alleged informality, the claims have now been amended above so as to use the word "initial" rather than "provisional".

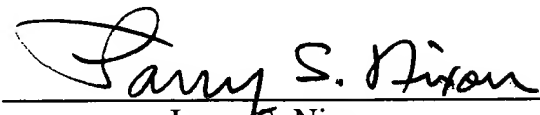
Claim 8 has been further amended above so as to provide a minor clarification.

O'CALLAGHAN et al.  
Appl. No. 09/818,670  
January 20, 2006

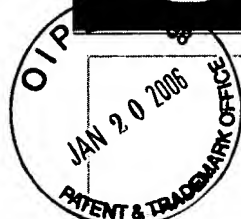
There being no other outstanding ground of rejection, it is believed that this entire application is now in condition for allowance and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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provisional[1,adjective]  
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Main Entry: **1**pro·vi·sion·al

Pronunciation: pr&- 'vizh-n&l, - 'vi-zh&-n&l

Function: *adjective*

: serving for the time being : **TEMPORARY**

- pro·vi·sion·al·ly *adverb*

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**pro·vi·sion·al** **Pronunciation Key** (prə-vīzh'ə-nəl)  
*adj.*

Provided or serving only for the time being. See  
 Synonyms at [temporary](#).

*n.*

1. A person hired temporarily for a job, typically before having taken an examination qualifying the person for permanent employment: *fire department provisionals*.
2. A temporary stamp that is used before the official issue is released.
3. **Provisional** A member of the extremist faction of the Irish Republican Army established in 1970.

**pro·vi·sion·al·ly** *adv.*

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*  
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# Main Entry: **pro·vi·sion·al**

Pronunciation: pr&- 'vi-zh&-n&l

Function: *adjective*

**1** : provided for a temporary need : suitable or acceptable in the existing situation but subject to change or nullification <a *provisional* government> <*provisional* custody of a minor>

**2** : of, relating to, or being temporary judicial acts or proceedings (as of attachment, injunction, or sequestration) allowed before final judgment to protect the interests of one or more parties to an action <a *provisional* remedy> —

**pro·vi·sion·al·ly** *adverb*

Source: *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Law*, © 1996  
*Merriam-Webster, Inc.*

## provisional

adj : under terms not final or fully worked out or agreed upon; "probationary employees"; "a provisional government"; "just a tentative schedule" [syn: probationary, provisionary, tentative]

Source: *WordNet* ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

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provisional: in CancerWEB's On-line Medical Dictionary

Source: *On-line Medical Dictionary*, © 1997-98 Academic Medical Publishing & CancerWEB

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